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The book occupies a unique place in the chemical world—similar books have been written in metallurgy—and it is hoped it will incite others to publish similar ones. It is most excellent and can be warmly recommended to all interested in seed oils.

A. H. GILL

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

The Journal of Biological Chemistry, Vol. VII., No. 5, issued May 20, contains the following: "The Determination of Small Quantities of Iodine with Special Reference to the Iodine Content of the Thyroid Gland," by Andrew Hunter. A method for iodine estimation consisting in combustion with sodium and potassium carbonates and potassium nitrate; conversion of iodide to iodic acid by chlorine; liberation of iodine by potassium iodide and titration of iodine by this sulphate. Details of the method have been carefully worked out and its limits of accuracy clearly defined. "Concerning the Relative Magnitude of the Parts Played by the Proteins and by the Bicarbonates in the Maintenance of the Neutrality of the Blood," by T. Brailsford Robertson. A confirmation of Henderson's results which showed that the bicarbonates of blood are more efficient in the neutralization of acid than are the proteins. "On the Refractive Indices of Solutions of Certain Proteins," by T. Brailsford Robertson. A formula showing the relation between refractive indices of solutions of ovomucoid and their concentrations is given. The change in the refractive index of the solvent brought about by adding 1 gram of ovomucoid to 100 c.c. is 0.0016; in case of ovovitellin, 0.0013. "The Origin of the Brown Pigments in the Integuments of *Tenebrio Molitor*," by Ross Aiken Gortner. Experiments are described which show that the pigmentation is the result of the interaction of an oxydase with a chromogen. The oxydase can be extracted from the tissue and is active only in the presence of oxygen. The chromogen is not precipitated by phosphotungstic acid; it is present only in minute amounts in the tissue at any one time. "Autolysis of

Fertilized and Unfertilized Echinoderm Eggs," by E. P. Lyon and L. F. Shackell. Fertilization exercises little if any effect upon the autolysis of *Arbacia* eggs. "Studies of the Influence of Various Dietary Conditions on Physiological Resistance—I., The Influence of Different Proportions of Protein in the Food on Resistance to the Toxicity of Ricin and on Recuperation from Hemorrhage," by Nellis B. Foster, M.D. An attempt to determine in experiments upon dogs whether the vital resistance can be influenced by protein or non-protein diet. Results were indecisive.

NOTES ON METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATOLOGY

A THUNDER-STORM observatory has recently been established in Spain by Señor G. J. de Guillen Garcia. By means of a wireless telegraph instrument, the electromagnetic waves set up by lightning discharges are detected graphically and acoustically, the changes in the intensity and the distinctness of the sounds produced in the receiver giving the observer a clue as to the probable path of the storm and the rate of its movement. After a sufficient amount of data have been obtained it is hoped that forecasts of these storms will be made possible.

THE promotion of Robert DeCourcy Ward to a professorship of climatology at Harvard University probably marks an epoch in the progress of climatology in the United States, as it is the first instance of an appointment to a full professorship in which the appointee is to devote his whole time to the teaching of the science. In the closely allied field, meteorology, Harvard also has a full professorship, Professor A. Lawrence Rotch, director of the Blue Hill Observatory, having received his appointment in 1906.

WHILE meteorological observations will receive but secondary consideration in the Mount McKinley expedition headed by Professor Herschel C. Parker, of Columbia University, they will not be neglected. Several portable instruments will be carried by the climbers, and a minimum thermometer will